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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 and 23 to 28 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 9, 18, 21 and 25 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants held a teleconference on Wednesday, April 25, 2007 with the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor. The Examiner's supervisor agreed to withdraw the Cruikshank reference and conduct an additional search based on arguments presented below. The Examiner's supervisor also recommended to having another teleconference in order to expeditiously further prosecution if a new office action is issued, which Applicants agreed.

Claims 1 to 21 and 23 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Cruikshank (U.S. Patent Number 6,829,315 hereinafter "Cruikshank").

Claim 1 is directed to a network processor that includes a crypto system. The crypto system encrypts data to form ciphered data so that an intended receiver with a correct cryptographic key may decrypt the ciphered data. The network processor also includes an alignment buffer to receive header data and the ciphered data from the crypto system and a switch fabric having a plurality of transmit buffer elements to receive data from the alignment buffer. The alignment buffer provides data to the switch fabric in blocks having a predetermined size.

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The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, Cruikshank does not disclose or suggest an alignment buffer to receive header data and the ciphered data from the crypto system.

Cruikshank describes a communication circuit having a decoder connected to an alignment buffer (see Abstract of Cruikshank). Even if Cruikshank's system suggests a crypto system, the data transferred to the alignment buffer is not ciphered data (see FIG. 2 of Cruikshank). It is not even encoded data. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Cruikshank does not disclose or suggest an alignment buffer to receive header data and ciphered data from the crypto system.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Cruikshank reference be withdrawn with respect to claim 1.

Claims 9, 18, 21 and 25 have the limitation of an alignment buffer receiving ciphered data from a crypto system. Applicants submit the Cruikshank reference should also be withdrawn with respect to claims 9, 18, 21 and 25 for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request that the cited art be withdrawn for at least the foregoing reasons.

Applicants submit that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above

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may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for withdrawing the prior art cited with regards to any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the address below. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at (781) 401-9988 ext. 23.

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0845 referencing Attorney Docket: Intel-014PUS.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 26, 2007

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